

TRENCH AND CAMP

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THEIR HOME FOLKS

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MOTOR MECHANICS AN UNUSUAL ORGANIZATION

Most Versatile and Representative Group of Men in Army Perhaps—Fine Morale.

By the Editor of Trench and Camp.
The Motor Mechanics may not be an organization that is entirely a new thing under the sun, yet it is undoubtedly one of the most unique organizations ever perfected as a part of an army. It is one that has been called into being by reason of the new and novel methods which men have designed for the efficient conduct of warfare. A motorized army and the requisition of the air as a battlefield has made necessary the assembling of such mechanical talent as is found in the Motor Mechanics regiments now stationed at Camp Greene.

On a recent visit to the industrial and brigade headquarters and company streets of these regiments, during which visit the writer was shown every courtesy and permitted to see many things that were intensely interesting, we made some observations that we would like to share with the readers of Trench and Camp.

First as to the personnel of these Motor Mechanics regiments. From Lieut. Col. R. C. Kirtland, commander of the two regiments, down to the private, it is a magnificent assemblage of men. Americanism, manhood, efficiency—all these and other virtues which we hold to be tantamount to the victorious American army are found in the personnel of this organization. The officers are of the type that will inspire confidence and the utmost enthusiasm in the men whom they command. As a rule they are men who have held very important positions in civic life—experts and executives in all lines of industry. They are men of vision, and it is to officers of like caliber that we owe the truthfulness of the frequent declaration that the new American army is the finest one that ever represented any country in time of war.

The non-commissioned officers and men are no less a finer type than the officers. Big athletic fellows most of them, with a clear and steady eye that bodes evil to an enemy but inspires the utmost confidence of a friend, they are the sort of soldiers that are fit to fight and win this battle for righteousness and the establishment of democracy. The first sergeants strike us particularly. They are not only interested in the military efficiency of their men, but they are interested in the welfare of the men themselves.

The versatility of the officers and men of the Motor Mechanics is most striking. There is hardly any sort of trade or profession, ordinary or extraordinary, that does not have its representatives in these regiments. Here is a partial list of the unusual sort of professions that are represented: Radio mechanics, camera repairmen, photographers, cabinet makers, draftsmen, tailors and sewing machine operators. The fact that the Motor Mechanics need sewing machine operators might cause someone to wonder just what function he performs. But when you have airplanes to repair it is very likely that there will be some torn canvas wings to sew up. Of course, there are any number of tinmiths, coppermiths, carpenters, engravers, watchmakers, etc.

Occasionally there are calls for workmen of a most unusual kind, but no call has yet been unanswered. For instance the other day there was an injured elevator. No sooner was the call sent out than a response was made by an expert elevator repairman. Bricklayers, expert surveyors, bungalow architects, and telegraphers. The fact that there are a number of landscape gardeners in the organization is attested by the sightly appearance of a large number of the officers' quarters. The visitors to the part of the camp occupied by these regiments will be greeted by a most surprising sight;

VICTORY THE COMMON CAUSE.



(Drawn especially for Camp Greene Trench and Camp.)

small grass and flower plots before the officers' tents, with many original and beautiful pergolas.

Speaking of trades and vocations, there was a call the other day for bird fanciers. Twenty-five men responded. One of the number admitted that he was the best white rat, flea, dog, cat and all around trainer in the world. (We understand that the Motor Macks are going to make him prove this). One of the 25 admitted that he had been a lion trainer in civil life.

One of the most unique activities of this organization is the operation of a wireless station. This station was recently set up and completely equipped by the Motor Mechanics themselves. There are a number of wireless operators in the outfit. These operators now have a class which they are instructing every night. Several substations have been set up, and communication is going on all of the time.

Several motor and workwood repair shops have been set out. Motorcycles that have been condemned as useless have been absolutely reclaimed by the experts of these regiments. The carpenter shops not only do the ordinary sort of construction and repair, but the experts are making cabinet, letter files, desks, and other articles that are used in the course of the day. The surprising thing to this observer is that so much of this work is being done with scant and improvised tools, as the initiative of the officers and men is such that they get things accomplished before a requisition can be filled.

The officers and men of the organization come from all parts of the country, from Maine to California. Almost every nationality is represented. They are for the most part men of good education, and a good number of them left very lucrative positions in civil life to become privates in the rear ranks—gladly and willingly, too. In one regiment alone there are 40 college graduates among the men. Over 50 per cent of the men have high school education.

They are not only good machinists, carpenters, bird fanciers, etc., but a large number of them are good athletes. For instance, in the Ninth company of the Third regiment they have ten expert swimmers, some of them from California with a string of medals for feats they have per-

formed. No sport fails to have its adherents and champions.

To sum it up, the Motor Mechanics is an organization such as will reflect credit both on themselves and their country when France is reached and the "big chance" comes to them. They are clean, virile, representative American gentlemen and soldiers.

CHARLOTTE WOMEN GIVE INTERESTING PROGRAM

A program of entertainment that was of much interest to a large audience of soldiers at "Y" hut 104 was given on Friday evening of the past week. The program was rendered by several Charlotte people, who are doing much to contribute to the pleasure of the soldiers stationed at Camp Greene.

Several solos by Mrs. Hunter Marshall were greatly enjoyed. Her rendition of "The Little Grey Home in the West," "The Rosary," and several others of the old songs were particularly pleasing. Miss Johnson read a number of selections that were well received. Miss Dixon played the piano accompaniments, and between the solos and recitations played a piano solo.

NEWS FROM "Y" NO. 105.

A most enjoyable feature of the Sunday afternoons at Building 105 is the "home hour" conducted by the First Baptist church of Charlotte. At 3:30 each Sunday a company of 15 or 20 people come out and give a program of music, readings and talks to the boys in khaki. The men appreciate the good time thus furnished and more of the men would find it to their interest to attend. All soldiers are welcome. This is a fine opportunity to get acquainted with the good people of Charlotte personally. They are big-hearted folks and ready to do everything they can for the welfare of the men in Camp Greene.

The moving pictures featuring Julian Eltinge given at Y 105 last Friday night were great and we hope more of this famous actor will be shown. He is certainly a wonderful female impersonator and the men laughed heartily at the clever way in which he played a Russian countess and won out for the Red Cross.

IMPROVING CAMP IN MUCH HASTE

Work of Laying Pipe for Sewer System Is Reported Finished.

Construction of Quartermaster Warehouses, Enlarging Hospital and Other Work Rushed.

The work of laying the pipe for the sewer system at Camp Greene practically has been completed, it was learned yesterday at the camp. The work of installing the plumbing fixtures will be undertaken soon, it was said. Rapid progress is being made in paving the roads within the camp. The permanent surface has been laid on the roads around the quartermaster storehouses and from there to past the bakery. This road will be ready for service within a few days.

Construction work at the camp is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible. The rear line of warehouses in the new part of the quartermaster depot have been completed and the line nearest the public road is partly completed. The big buildings at the base hospital which will serve as convalescent wards are being finished fast and on some of them only interior work remains to be done. The general attitude displayed yesterday by construction officials at the camp was of eagerness to complete the several great tasks in haste, but none professed any specific reason why the work should be rushed, other than as the result of a desire to provide the camp with the needed improvements.

Information obtained yesterday at the camp indicates Surgeon General Gorgas has formed a flattering opinion of the general value of the site of the base hospital here. It even was said the surgeon general had expressed the hope that when he is retired from active service he might be stationed at this base hospital. While no official would admit receiving recently information regarding the future of the camp, several officers said their opinion is a great use will be made of this camp. Civilian and military officials interested in the improvement of the camp, recently in Washington, were unable to obtain definite information regarding the plans of the war department concerning this camp.

An effort will be made this week by the proper authorities at the camp to obtain the assistance of soldier workmen in carrying out the announced building program.

Information obtained from an official source in Washington and brought to Charlotte yesterday was to the effect that the reports of all the three major generals inspecting Camp Greene last Sunday with Secretary of War Baker have not been filed. Secretary Baker announced here that the decision regarding the future of this camp would not be made until these generals' written reports had been received. The presumption was that Surgeon General Gorgas had not filed his report, as he did not return to Washington with the other members of the official party.

Nothing of an authoritative nature was learned in Washington regarding the movement of troops to Camp Greene. Neither do the higher officers at Camp Greene admit having any information regarding the prospective arrival of troops here, it was stated. For three weeks reports have been current at Camp Greene that many thousands of signal corps troops from a Texas camp were ready to move to this camp, and later reports said these men were enroute. They have not arrived, it was stated yesterday. The day mentioned as that when they should arrive has passed. Officers at Camp Greene say they have no late information regarding these men.

